Manfrotto MH494-BH

Manfrotto MH494-BH Centre Ball Head User Manual

Model: MH494-BH

1. Introduction

The Manfrotto MH494-BH Centre Ball Head is designed for photographers requiring a compact yet robust solution for precise camera positioning. Constructed from lightweight aluminum, it supports equipment up to 8 kg, making it suitable for mirrorless cameras with zoom lenses and medium-format DSLRs. This ball head features independent controls for sphere lock, friction adjustment, and panoramic rotation, enhancing framing flexibility. It includes a 200PL-PRO plate, compatible with both Manfrotto RC2 and Arca-Swiss style quick-release systems.



This image shows the Manfrotto MH494-BH Centre Ball Head from the front, highlighting its compact design and the quick-release plate mechanism.

2. Safety Information

- Ensure the ball head is securely mounted to a stable tripod before attaching any camera equipment.
- Always verify that the camera is firmly attached to the quick-release plate and that the plate is locked into the ball head before releasing your grip.
- Do not exceed the maximum payload capacity of 8 kg to prevent equipment damage or instability.
- Avoid exposing the ball head to extreme temperatures or harsh chemicals.
- Keep all moving parts free from dust and debris to ensure smooth operation.

3. Package Contents

The Manfrotto MH494-BH Centre Ball Head package includes the following items:

- 1 x Manfrotto 494 Centre Ball Head
- 1 x 200PL-PRO Quick Release Plate

4. Product Features

The MH494-BH Centre Ball Head offers several key features for enhanced photographic control:

- **Flawless Smoothness:** Designed for easy and precise framing.
- **Independent Panoramic Movement:** Allows for horizontal rotation, ideal for landscape photography.
- **Independent Friction Control:** Adjusts ball tension to balance equipment weight and facilitate effortless framing.
- **200PL-PRO Plate:** A unique, premium design that is strong, lightweight, and compatible with both Manfrotto RC2 and Arca-Swiss style systems.



A side view of the Manfrotto MH494-BH Centre Ball Head, illustrating the quick-release plate and the overall structure.

5. Setup

5.1 Attaching the Ball Head to a Tripod

1. Locate the 3/8-inch threaded mounting hole at the base of the ball head.
2. Screw the ball head onto the 3/8-inch mounting screw of your tripod until it is firmly secured. Ensure it is tightened sufficiently to prevent rotation.

5.2 Attaching Your Camera to the Quick Release Plate

1. Unscrew the camera mounting screw on the 200PL-PRO plate.
2. Align the screw with the tripod socket on the base of your camera.
3. Tighten the screw securely using a coin or the integrated D-ring (if available) until the plate is firmly attached to the camera.

5.3 Mounting the Camera with Plate to the Ball Head

1. Ensure the quick-release lever on the ball head is in the open position.
2. Slide the camera with the attached 200PL-PRO plate into the receiver on the ball head.
3. Push the quick-release lever to the closed position until it clicks, securing the camera firmly. Verify the camera is locked in place by gently attempting to lift it.



A side view of the Manfrotto MH494-BH Centre Ball Head, illustrating the main locking knob and the friction control knob on the side, relevant for setup and operation.

6. Operating the Ball Head

6.1 Main Sphere Lock Knob

The large knob on the side of the ball head controls the main sphere lock. Turn it clockwise to tighten and lock the ball in position, preventing any movement. Turn it counter-clockwise to loosen the ball, allowing for free movement and adjustment of the camera angle.

6.2 Integrated Friction Control Knob

Located within the main sphere lock knob, the smaller friction control knob allows you to adjust the tension of the ball movement when it is loosened. Turn this knob to increase or decrease the resistance, ensuring that the camera's weight is balanced and preventing sudden drops when the main lock is disengaged. This provides finer control over camera positioning.

6.3 Independent Panoramic Knob

The separate knob at the base of the ball head controls the panoramic rotation. Loosen this knob to allow the camera to rotate horizontally 360 degrees while maintaining a level horizon. Tighten it to lock the panoramic movement. This feature is useful for capturing panoramic shots without adjusting the camera's tilt.



This image provides a top-down perspective of the Manfrotto MH494-BH Centre Ball Head, focusing on the quick-release plate and the panoramic rotation base, illustrating the operational controls.

7. Maintenance

- **Cleaning:** Use a soft, dry cloth to wipe down the ball head regularly. For stubborn dirt, a slightly damp cloth can be used, followed by immediate drying. Avoid abrasive cleaners or solvents.
- **Lubrication:** The ball head is designed for maintenance-free operation. Do not attempt to lubricate internal components, as this may attract dust and impair performance.
- **Storage:** Store the ball head in a clean, dry environment, away from extreme temperatures and humidity.
- **Inspection:** Periodically check all knobs and levers for proper function and tightness. Ensure the quick-release plate mechanism operates smoothly.

8. Troubleshooting

- **Ball Head Not Holding Position:** Ensure the main sphere lock knob is fully tightened. If the issue persists, adjust the friction control knob to increase tension. Verify that the camera's weight does not exceed the 8 kg payload capacity.
- **Camera Not Securing to Plate:** Check that the camera mounting screw on the 200PL-PRO plate is fully tightened to the camera.
- **Plate Not Locking into Ball Head:** Ensure the quick-release lever is fully open before inserting the plate. After insertion, push the lever firmly until it clicks into the closed position. Check for any obstructions in the plate receiver.
- **Stiff Movement:** Clean any visible dust or debris from the ball and socket area. Avoid over-tightening knobs, which can cause stiffness.

9. Specifications

Specification	Detail
Product Dimensions	5.12 x 3.54 x 5.12 inches
Item Weight	0.39 Kilograms (13.7 ounces)
Item Model Number	MH494-BH
Brand	Manfrotto
Color	Black
Compatible Devices	Camera
Folded Size	3.5 inches (h)
Plate Type	200PL-PRO (RC2 and Arca-Swiss compatible)
Maximum Payload	8 kg

10. Warranty Information

Manfrotto products are covered by a standard limited warranty against defects in materials and workmanship. The specific terms and duration of the warranty may vary by region and product. Please refer to the official Manfrotto website or your product's packaging for detailed warranty information and registration procedures. Retain your proof of purchase for warranty claims.

11. Support

For technical assistance, product inquiries, or support, please visit the official Manfrotto website. The website provides access to FAQs, product registration, and contact information for customer service. You may also find additional resources and tutorials to help you maximize the use of your Manfrotto MH494-BH Centre Ball Head.

Manfrotto Official Website: www.manfrotto.com

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